

THE LIFE AND WRITINGS

by the land office. (To Edward Carrington, 1787. F. IV., 482.) THE CONSTITUTION.—I am glad to learn that the new Constitution will undoubtedly be received by a sufficiency of the States to set it a going. Were I in America, I would advocate it warmly till nine should have adopted it, and then as warmly take the other side to convince the remaining four that they ought not to come into it until the declaration of rights is annexed to it. By this means we should secure all the good of it and procure so respectable an opposition as would induce the accepting States to offer a bill of rights. * * * I fear much the effects of the perpetual re-eligibility of the President. (To Stephens Smith, written in Paris, 1788. F. V., 2.)

THE CONSTITUTION.—I congratulate you on the accession of your State (South Carolina) to the new Federal Constitution. * * * Our Government wanted bracing. Still we must take care not to run from one extreme to another; not to brace too high. I own I join those in opinion who think a bill of Rights necessary. I apprehended too that the total abandonment of the principle of rotation in the offices of President and Senator will end in abuse. But my confidence is that there will for a long time be virtue and good sense enough in our countrymen to correct abuses. We can surely boast of having set the world a beautiful example of a government reformed by reason alone without bloodshed. (To Edward Rutledge, written in Paris, 1788. F. V, 42.)

THE CONSTITUTION.—The operations which have taken place in America lately, fill me with pleasure. In the first place they realize the confidence I had that whenever our affairs go obviously wrong the good sense of the people will interfere and set them to rights. The example of changing a Constitution by assembling the wise men of the State, instead of assembling armies, will be worth as much to the world as the former examples we had given them. The Constitution, too, which was the result of our deliberations, is unquestionably the wisest ever produced to men, and some of the accommodations of interest which it has adopted are greatly pleasing to me who have before had occasions of seeing how difficult those interests were to